



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the General Counsel

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2150
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

July 1, 2019

Matthew Hoppock
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 70278
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: FOIA 2019-22882

Dear Mr. Hoppock,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in which you seek records regarding telephonic appearance policy in Atlanta.

Responsive documents are enclosed. Portions of the enclosed documents have been redacted in accordance with 5 U. S.C. § 552(b)(6) to avoid a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and/or 5 U. S.C. § 552(b)(5) to protect privileged information. The reason for redaction is clearly marked on each redacted portion.

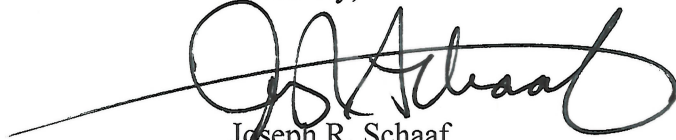
For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. *See* <http://www.justice.gov/oip/foiapist/2012foiapist9.html>.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at the telephone number 703-605-1297 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of

Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Schaaf", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Joseph R. Schaaf
Senior Counsel for Administrative Law

From: [Nance, Kelly \(EOIR\)](#)
To: [Owen, Sirce E. \(EOIR\)](#); [Long, Cynthia \(EOIR\)](#)
Subject: RE: Questions from ATL Stakeholder Meeting
Date: Monday, October 22, 2018 10:04:15 AM

This looks good Judge. I'm sending the email out today, thanking them for participating and both of your contact info.

Kelly

From: Owen, Sirce E. (EOIR)
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 2:19 PM
To: Nance, Kelly (EOIR) <Kelly.Nance@EOIR.USDOJ.GOV>; Long, Cynthia (EOIR) <Cynthia.Long@EOIR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Questions from ATL Stakeholder Meeting

Kelly and Cynthia,

Here are the questions that I captured from the Atlanta Stakeholder meeting that require follow-up:

1. Request for a separate attorney line at the Summit Annex due to long security lines
2. Juvenile docket – offer from KIND to conduct specialized training for IJs
3. Is there a problem with faxed applications (I-589s) as the practice manual/CFR requires original applications/signatures?
4. If there is a Stewart Stakeholders Meeting, can attorneys attend via VTC from Atlanta?
5. Can Atlanta set an “uncontested docket” – for “clean” adjustments (I-130 and I-360 SIJ), requests for VD (approved I-601A), etc.?
6. If moving cases non-detained between IJs at Ted Turner and Summit (mainly from JDP and SC2 who are now on the Folkston docket), attorneys asked to be notified sooner for preparation and to meet document submission deadlines.

These questions were answered and do not require follow up:

1. Is IJ Maldonado handling juvenile dockets? Will this be in addition to or in lieu of IJ Houser? – both will be handling juvenile dockets
2. Does a sponsor have to accompany a formerly unaccompanied juvenile once he/she turns 18? – no and case should be moved to adult docket
3. How are notices of hearing served on detained respondents who appear via VTC? – for Irwin and Folkston, notices are mailed via US mail to the respondents; for Stewart, notices are given to ERO/GEO for service
4. Are attorneys provided with notification when respondents are released from ICE custody? – no
5. Is there a blanket denial policy for motions for telephonic? – no, the granting/denial of motion is at the discretion of the IJ and determinations are made on a case-by-case basis. Follow up comment – attorneys asked if the notification that a Motion for Telephonic was denied can be provided earlier (rather than when a courtesy call is provided for the setting of the bond hearing)

6. How long is too long to wait for a bond hearing? – EOIR's goal is to have bond hearings scheduled with 14 days of the request for hearing being filed
7. For FAMUs released to Alabama, why are some NTAs being filed in GA and some in LA? – DHS dictates where NTAs are filed; respondents can file a MCOV to move hearings if there is a closer court to their domicile
8. Why have some cases dropped off the schedule with no future hearing date? – cases should not be off calendar; EOIR is working to set cases to the new IJs calendar starting in October 2019 (VJ1, VJ2, etc.)

Thanks,
Sirce

Sirce E. Owen
Assistant Chief Immigration Judge
Atlanta, Charlotte, and Stewart

From: [Wilson, Earle B. \(EOIR\)](#)
To: [Schaaf, Joseph R. \(EOIR\)](#)
Cc: [Long, Cynthia \(EOIR\)](#)
Subject: FW: Motions
Date: Wednesday, June 05, 2019 7:19:32 AM

From: Wilson, Earle B. (EOIR)
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2019 3:30 PM
To: Long, Cynthia (EOIR) <Cynthia.Long@EOIR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: FW: Motions

Hello Cynthia. I conducted a search as requested and I found this email regarding telephonic bond hearings.

From: Wilson, Earle B. (EOIR)
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 11:45 AM
To: Criss, Scott D. (EOIR) <Scott.D.Criss@EOIR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: RE: Motions

I generally grant telephonic to out of town attorneys..

As for motions, I generally do not continue Merits, especially if the case is old. If the motion is for a Master and the continuance is for an I-130 etc, I grant the continuance. (I generally check to see if the last continuance was coded "7A")

From: Criss, Scott D. (EOIR)
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 11:20 AM
To: Wilson, Earle B. (EOIR) <Earle.Wilson@EOIR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Motions

Earle,

I have some motions that I am working on and I want to make sure I am consistent and don't mess up you schedule. If I grant a motion to continue (master or merits) – I will give it back to your LA to set the date.

Do you permit telephonic appearances for counsel at a master?

Let me know if there is anything specific you would like me to do.

Scott

Scott Criss

U.S. Immigration Judge
Executive Office of Immigration Review
Department of Justice
180 Ted Turner Drive, SW, Suite 241
Atlanta, GA 30303

(b) (6)

From: [Long, Cynthia \(EOIR\)](#)
To: [Allmond, Priscilla L. \(EOIR\)](#); [ANDERSON, WILLETTA \(EOIR\)](#); [Best, Stacia \(EOIR\)](#); [Castillo, Carmella \(EOIR\)](#); [Codrington, Chanara \(EOIR\)](#); [Collins, Candice \(EOIR\)](#); [Crossley, Maurice \(EOIR\)](#); [Darden, Timesha \(EOIR\)](#); [Douglas, Torsha \(EOIR\)](#); [Eskridge, Theresa \(EOIR\)](#); [Hawkins, Kimberly \(EOIR\)](#); [Little, Ernest \(EOIR\)](#); [Long, Cynthia \(EOIR\)](#); [Martin, Rita \(EOIR\)](#); [Robinson, Ann \(EOIR\)](#); [Ryan, Angelica L. \(EOIR\)](#); [Swartz, Charles \(EOIR\)](#); [Tillapaugh, Karla N. \(EOIR\)](#); [Tripp, Arndrico \(EOIR\)](#); [Walker, Derick A. \(EOIR\)](#); [Wharton, Mellony D. \(EOIR\)](#)
Subject: GET - Telephonics - Folkston
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 10:44:00 AM
Importance: High

Good morning,

Be advised that Judge Tregerman has agreed to grant all motions for telephonic for FLG (Folkston) cases. (b) (5)

Then you can let them know it is granted. However, the following requirements shall be informed to them in a professional tone:

- 1- Motion required
- 2- land-line office phone number required to be included in motion, with a direct dial number to their extension
- 3- attorney is expected to be available to take the court's call for the entire day of the hearing (current masters are large in numbers)
- 4- There may be times the judge will deny motions for telephonic for abuse or non-compliance

All of the above does not have to be reiterate in every telephone call.

Motions for Telephonic shall be updated in CASE accordingly by Judge's assigned Legal Assistant.

From: Eskridge, Theresa (EOIR)
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 9:21 AM
To: Long, Cynthia (EOIR) <Cynthia.Long@EOIR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: ATTORNEY COMPLAINT
Importance: High

Good Morning Cynthia,

(b) (6) called to get the status of a motion for telephonic yesterday and this morning. I advised her both times that there had not been a decision made on the motion. She advised that she would have to make arrangements to fly in if it was not granted. She was upset that a decision had not been made on the motion. I did pull the file from (b) (6) cases scheduled for the 29th as the filing has not been forwarded to Judge (b) (6) as of this morning. She asked to speak with the court coordinator. Her telephone number is (b) (6) - (b) (6).

Thanks

Theresa L. Lewis, M.A.

Legal Assistant

U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review – SFB

theresa.eskridge@EOIR.USDOJ.GOV